



PRESS RELEASE

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Afghan Traders Ink More Than \$8 Million In Deals At Gulfood

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN – Afghan companies signed contracts worth more than \$8 million for the country's high-quality agricultural produce with international buyers during the five days of the Gulfood Exhibition in Dubai.

Gulfood was held from Feb. 23-27 at the Dubai World Trade Center. It is the world's biggest annual food exhibition with 4,500 exhibitors and tens of thousands of buyers and visitors attending.

Twenty-one Afghan traders, almost half Afghan businesswomen, displayed pomegranates, juices, apples, saffron, dried fruit, and nuts at the event.

Importers from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Spain, Malaysia, China, Turkey, India, Bahrain and the United States signed more than \$8 million dollars' worth of contracts for Afghan figs, pine nuts, dried apricots, walnuts, almonds, juices, and saffron. Afghan traders signed deals more than \$2.3 million at the 2013 Gulfood exhibition.

Afghan agri-businesses participate in Gulfood with the support of United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This year USAID rented and designed Afghanistan's Pavilion, developed promotional materials and supported the traders in deal negotiations.

Agricultural produce, including fresh fruit, dried fruit, and nuts, comprised about one third of Afghanistan's exports in 2013.

For more information about USAID's programs and interview requests, please contact: Senior Development, Outreach and Communications Officer Stefan Korshak (0702-626255) KabulAIDdoc@usaid.gov, <http://afghanistan.usaid.gov>

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